From: Devereux, Jan
To: Stuart Gedal
Subject: Re: Regarding your recent email about HP and Israel
Date: Friday, April 20, 2018 12:49:43 PM

Stuart,

The matter will not be discussed at all on Monday and I

Jan Devereux
Vice Mayor
Cambridge, MA
jdevereux@cambridgema.gov

For updates on City Council issues and events visit http://jandevereux.com/

All emails to and from this City address should be considered subject to Massachusetts Public Records Laws.

From: Stuart Gedal <waterbury59@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 12:48:38 PM
To: Devereux, Jan
Subject: Re: Regarding your recent email about HP and Israel

Jan-

Thanks for responding. I can understand that Jewish people in general, aside from the issue of Israel, might feel vulnerable. Some terrible things are happening to innocent Jewish people-beatings and such-in France, Sweden, Germany, etc. and there don't seem to be, as we have here, any incentive for even elected office-holders or legislators to protect them. That is in part, I imagine, why the sense that attacking Israel and demonizing it is felt to be anti-Semitic.

I always learned, as an activist, that if a Black person says something is racist, I had really better listen and look at it and not dismiss it. I can understand the word being used, but I don't think you as an individual or any other City Councilor is thought (certainly by me, or people I know) to be anti-Jewish in a racist type of way.

Anti-Jewish racism or anti-Semitism aside, I hope that you and the other councilors—not the lobbyists—will define the issue/discussion. I have reflected in a letter I wrote to Denise Simmons about how the "activism" of single issue groups like Mass Against HP differs from what we did as community activists in the 1980s. Let's get through Mon, and I would be glad to send as brief an explanation as I can of the difference and why the Council shouldn't let this one even rise to a vote.

Let's go forward. We do need work on the flood plain (of which I believe, thanks to global warming,I will now be a resident!) and other pressing issues.

Again, appreciation for writing back.

Sincerely,
Stuart

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2018, at 10:57 AM, Devereux, Jan <jdevereux@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> Well, many, many emails were focused on the impact of a possible HP boycott on Israel and accused us of being anti-Semitic in even contemplating such a resolution. I understand that some of the supporters of Mass Against HP would like to frame it as solely a human rights issue but that is not the way it is being framed by others.
>
> Jan Devereux
> Vice Mayor
> Cambridge, MA
> jdevereux@cambridgema.gov
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>
> ---
>
> **From:** Stuart Gedal <waterbury59@comcast.net>
> **Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 10:04:09 AM
> **To:** Devereux, Jan
> **Subject:** Re: Regarding your recent email about HP and Israel
>
> Hello, Jan.
>
> Thanks for sending out a response regarding the HP Boycott issue. To date, only you and Marc have sent out such an e-mailing. I want to highlight to you a difference in tone between your e-mail and Marc's set by the wording in the Subject line.
>
> Marc's e-mail says the subject is "Regarding HP boycott".
>
> Your subject says the subject is "Regarding your recent email about HP and Israel".
>
> The proposed resolution, to the extent any of us know about it from the outside organization that proposed it, is focused on:
> -HP equipment and ICE
> -HP equipment and deportations (not clear if meant deportations from USA only or from other countries as well)
> -HP equipment used in prisons (not clear if USA or elsewhere as well).

-HP equipment used by Israeli security forces

I'm sure your choice of words in your email subject (the focus **only** on "Israel") was not intended as a "tricky" way to make a statement of your opinion about how Israel addresses the issues of terrorism that emanates from the territories ruled by Hamas and the Palestinian Authority. I'm sure that you worded the email subject as a convenience after a busy week, and your determination (much to be admired!) to communicate back to those who wrote you.

Your choice of "shorthand" — mentioning **only** Israel (one of 4 HP activities in the resolution)— reproduces what many feel is an egregious error in the way the HP Boycott is really organized: it's a thinly veiled part of Palestinian Boycott, Divest, and Sanction.

As I'm writing you this email, I look across the top of my computer and see the subject line "HP and Israel" in large **bold** font. I think you may, unintentionally, have reproduced the fundamental problem with the wording for the resolution by making only one HP customer, Israel, a demon.

Marc may have, again unintentionally, been less one-sided in his wording of his subject.

Now that we have some time to reflect on this, I **implore** you to choose your words, even in a relatively casual announcement of guidelines and schedules, more carefully.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully,
Stuart Gedal
72 Montgomery Street
Cambridge, MA 02140
617-543-6792
Long-time homeowner, voter, taxpayer, and public school parent

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2018, at 7:51 AM, Devereux, Jan <jdevereux@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> The City Council has been barraged with messages concerning this issue, and given the great volume of email received over the past week I cannot reply individually. The agenda for the April 23 Cambridge City Council meeting (LINK) does **not** include a policy resolution suggesting a boycott of Hewlett Packard products, nor is there anything on the agenda related to Israel or Palestine.
>
> Please be advised that the City Council's rules only allow members of

the public to speak to items that are on the agenda. Signs, placards and posters are not allowed inside the Sullivan Chamber at City Hall. These rules are strictly enforced, and we ask that all respect them to allow us to conduct the business at hand.

This Monday we have a very full agenda, which includes the city manager's first presentation on the City's FY19 Budget and a petition for a zoning amendment for an expanded Flood Plain Overlay District to better protect the health and safety of buildings and people from the anticipated threats of climate change. If you would like to speak on any item that is on the agenda you may sign up online here; you will have up to three minutes. The public comment period is at the beginning of the meeting, which starts at 5:30pm.

Jan Devereux
Vice Mayor